IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with <u>underlining</u> and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

1. (original)   A data file system, comprising:

a plurality of data access nodes which access data which the data access nodes are responsible for accessing respectively; and a brain node having:

an association table management section which manages an association table which describes an association between node IDs for discriminating among the plurality of data access nodes and data IDs each for identifying data which a data access node

identified by a node ID is capable of accessing;

a request reception section which receives a data access request from a client;

a node search section which refers to the association table to search for a data access node which is capable of accessing the data for which the data access request is intended; and

a request transmission section which transmits the data access request to the data access node which is capable of accessing the data for which the data access request is intended,

wherein each of the plurality of data access nodes has:

a request reception section which receives the data access request transmitted from the brain node;

a data access section which accesses the data designated by the data access request received at the request reception section of each of the data access nodes; and

a result transmission section which transmits the result of the data access by the data access section to the client which has made the data access request.

2. (original)   The data file system according to claim 1, wherein the association table management section manages an association table that describes an association between the node IDs and protocol IDs each for identifying an access protocol used by a data access node identified by a node ID in addition to the association between the node IDs and the data IDs, and

if the data access request received by the request reception section is a request to create a new data file, the request transmission section transmits the data access request to a data access node that uses an access protocol suitable for the protocol of the data access request.

3. (original)   A data access node which accesses data which the data access node is responsible for accessing, comprising:

a request reception section which receives a data access request transmitted thereto from a brain node which receives the data access request from a client;

a data access section which accesses data designated by the data access request received at the request reception section;

a result transmission section which transmits the result of the data access by the data access section to the client which has made the data access request.

4. (original)   A brain node which is connected to a plurality of data access nodes which access data which the data access nodes are responsible for accessing respectively and transmits a data access request to a data access node of the plurality of data access nodes which is responsible for accessing a desired data, comprising:

an association table management section which manages an association table which describes an association between node IDs for discriminating among the plurality of data access nodes and data IDs each for identifying data which a data access node

identified by a node ID is capable of accessing;

a request reception section which receives a data access request from a client;

a node search section which refers to the association table to search for a data access node which is capable of accessing the data for which the data access request is intended; and

a request transmission section which transmits the data access request to the data access node which is capable of accessing the data for which the data access request is intended.

5. (original)   The brain node according to claim 4, wherein the association table management section manages an association table that describes an association between the node IDs and protocol IDs each for identifying an access protocol used by a data access node identified by a node ID in addition to the association between the node IDs and the data IDs, and

if the data access request received by the request reception section is a request to create a new data file, the request transmission section transmits the data access request to a data access node that uses an access protocol suitable for the protocol of the data access request.

6. (original)   A data access program storage medium storing a data access program which runs on an information processing device allowing a program to run thereon and makes the information processing device operate as a data access node which accesses data which the data access node is responsible for accessing,

wherein the data access program makes the information processing device operate as a data access node having:

a request reception section which receives a data access request transmitted thereto from a brain node which receives the data access request from a client;

a data access section which accesses data designated by the data access request received at the request reception section; and a result transmission section which transmits the result of the data access by the data access section to the client which has made the data access request.

7. (original)   A brain program storage medium storing a brain program which runs on an, information processing device allowing a program to run and makes the information processing device operate as a brain node which is connected to a plurality of data access nodes which access data which the data access nodes are responsible for

accessing respectively and transmits a data access request to a data access node of the plurality of data access nodes which is responsible for accessing a desired data,

wherein the brain program makes the information processing device operate as a brain node having:

an association table management section which manages an association table which describes an association between node IDs for discriminating among the plurality of data access nodes and data IDs each for identifying data which a data access node

identified by a node ID is capable of accessing;

a request reception section which receives a data access request from a client;

a node search section which refers to the association table to search for a data access node which is capable of accessing the data for which the data access request is intended; and

a request transmission section which transmits the data access request to the data access node which is capable of accessing the data for which the data access request is intended.

8. (original)   The brain program storage medium according to claim 7, wherein the association table management section manages an association table that describes an association between the node IDs and protocol IDs each for identifying an access protocol used by a data access node identified by a node ID in addition to the association between the node IDs and the data IDs, and

if the data access request received by the request reception section is a request to create a new data file, the request transmission section transmits the data access request to a data access node that uses an access protocol suitable for the protocol of the data access request.